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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON IRAQ, MAY 25, 2004

1. Editorial in San Pedro Sula-based liberal daily "La Prensa" of 5/23 entitled "At home." "The members of battalion Xatruch returned home last Friday after spending almost five months in Iraq working to support the consolidation of peace and democracy in that country."

"The performance of the Honduran troops was positive, and their experience has grown by being in contact with other cultures, by having to respond to emergency situations, and by serving in the cause of peace."

"Will there be more Honduran soldiers in Iraq? We'll get the answer after July 1 when the new Iraqi government will be installed in office. Moreover, as many other countries have proposed, the U.N. may set up an international peacekeeping force which could include Honduran troops."

"The work done by the Honduran soldiers in Iraq has been admirable. It's gratifying that they have all returned prepared to continue to contribute to international peace."

Pierce